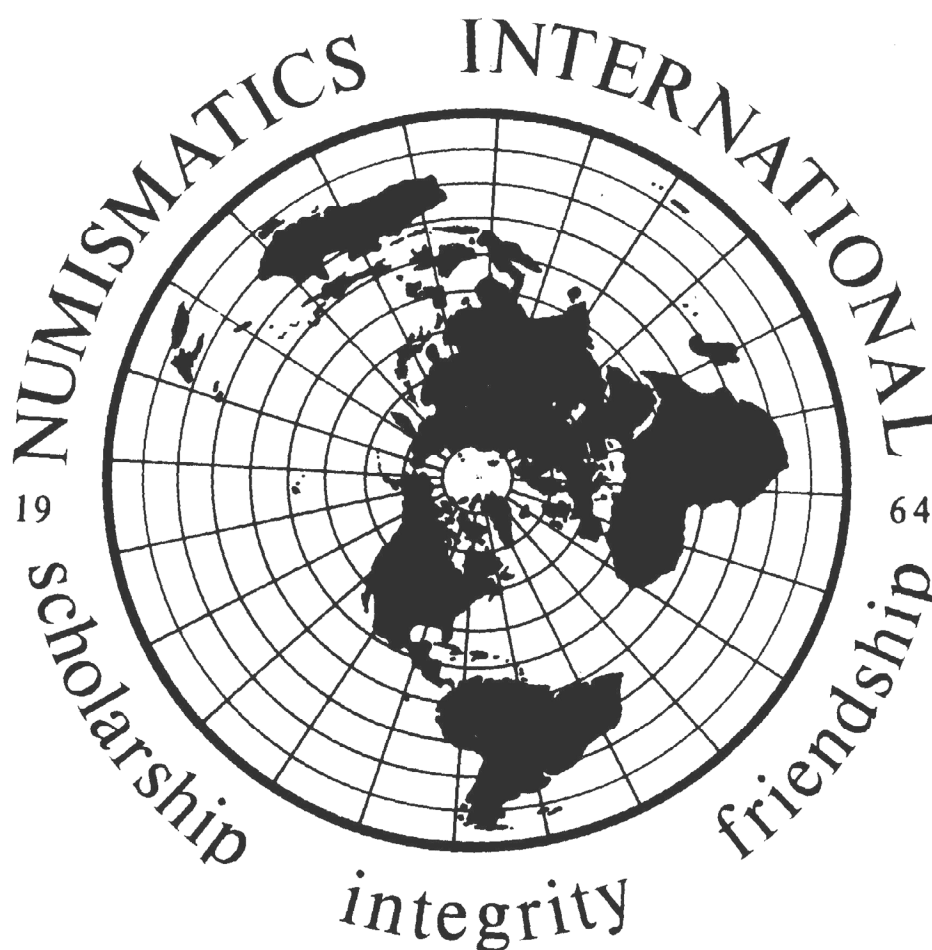


NI Bulletin

A Publication of Numismatics International Inc.

Volume 44 Nos. 7 / 8



July / August 2009

\$4.00

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chairman & Past-President:	Michael Jones	
President:	James Terry	
Vice President:	Carl Young	
Recording Secretary:	Christopher Carson	
Corresponding Secretary:	Gordon Robinson	e-mail: grobinson1@netzero.net
Treasurer:	Don Douglas	

All past Presidents are members of the Board of Governors.

APPOINTED STAFF

Curator, NI REFERENCE COLLECTION

Philip L. Lawrence

Editor Emeritus, NI BULLETIN

Marvin L. Fraley

Editor, NI BULLETIN

Herman Blanton

P.O. Box 247

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

e-mail: hblanton@yahoo.com

Chairman, NI PUBLICATIONS

John E. Vandigriff

P.O. Box 1481

Lewisville, TX 75067

e-mail: johnvan@grandecom.net

Index Editor, NI BULLETIN

Christopher D. Carson

Archivist

Ross Schraeder

Membership Chairman

Ross Schraeder

e-mail: rossschraeder1@yahoo.com

Librarian, NI LIBRARY

David Gracey

PO Box 570842

Dallas, TX 75357-0842

davidfg248@grandecom.net

Auction Manager, NI MAIL BID SALES

Carl Young

P.O. Box 810521

Dallas, TX 75381-0521

Telephone: 972-247-0634

Moderator, NI EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Howard A. Daniel III

P.O. Box 989 Deltaville, VA 23043-0989

e-mail: HADaniel3@msn.com

Book Orders: Elmore Scott: NIBooks@verizon.net

NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL

e-mail: johnvan@grandecom.net

Website: <http://www.numis.org>

Discussion Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/numismatics/>

Correspondence should be directed to those persons and addresses above for departments indicated. All other correspondence should be mailed direct to NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL, P.O. BOX 570842, DALLAS, TX 75357-0842.

OBJECTIVES OF NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL

Numismatics International is a non-profit educational organization. Its Objectives are: to encourage and promote the science of numismatics by specializing in areas and nations other than the United States of America; to cultivate fraternal relations among collectors and numismatic students; to encourage and assist new collectors; to foster the interest of youth in numismatics; to stimulate and advance affiliations among collectors and kindred organizations; and to acquire, share, and disseminate knowledge.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Individual & Club Memberships, \$20.00 annually; Junior Membership (18 years of age and under), \$15.00 annually; Senior Membership (70 years of age and older), \$15.00 annually.

Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 44

July / August 2009

Numbers 7 / 8

NI

Letters to the Editor	96
Membership Report	97
NI Educational Programs, ANA World's Fair of Money, August 5-9, 2009..	132
Alberto Passhaus	
<i>The Creation of the Bahia Mint and the First Brazilian Pattern</i>	98
Kent Ponterio, Ponterio & Associates	
<i>Edge Varieties of the Brazilian 12,800 Reis</i>	102
Herman Blanton	
<i>Solidus of Leo I from the Grave of Childeric I</i>	104
Gregory G. Brunk	
<i>Coins Countermarked with Political Messages and Related Pieces (A-C)</i>	106
Bob Fritsch	
<i>Quiz</i>	122
Ira & Larry Goldberg, Inc.	
<i>Valentinian I, AD 364-375, Silver Multiple of 24 Miliarisia (48 Siliquae)</i>	123
CNG	
<i>Aistulf, King of the Lombards</i>	124
Mark McMenamin	
<i>The Mystery of the Carthaginian Map Coins</i>	125
Howard Ford	
<i>The White-Ship Disaster, Part Two: The Pennies of Stephen, Maud and Pereric</i>	127

NI

We have some very fine articles for you again this time. Our lead article is from Alberto Passhaus who writes on early Brazilian coins and Kent Ponterio follows with a piece on Brazilian 12,800 reis gold coins. We are pleased to present the first installment of Greg Brunk's catalog of "Political Countermark" coins of the world, which follows a few introductory articles already published. This section of the Brunk catalog is of countries from A to C, with Brazil included, so we are indeed heavy on Brazil this time.

Ancient coins are represented with articles from Mark McMenamin on Carthage and the Goldbergs on Valentinian I. Your editor offers a short article on Childeric I, who is on the cusp of the ancient and medieval periods. CNG has an article on a medieval coin of Aistulf. Howard Ford continues his history of medieval coins as related to the White-Ship disaster of 1120.

Howard Daniel has been busy representing NI through educational outreach activities; please see his report on the back cover regarding the upcoming ANA national coin convention. Thanks, Howard!

ISSN: 0197-3088 Copyright 2009

Numismatics International, P.O. Box 570842, Dallas, TX USA 75357-0842

Letters to the Editor

Member Dr. Gerhard Schoen contacted us with information about two articles in the May / June 2009 bulletin: Dr. Howard Ford's article "Francisco Morazán of Honduras" on page 75 and the enquiry by Robert Ronus, "Mainz, Hohenlohe or Habsburg - What is this Coin?" on p. 72. The constructive and informational exchanges follow.

Dear Mr. Ronus, in response to your article about the well known Hohenlohe 15 Kreuzer 1685 in the imperial style, it should be noted that the star is not the personal privy mark of Ulrich Burkhard Willerding (not Wildeering) but was just meant to distinguish the strikings under the Hohenlohe contract from the products of the imperial mints. Willerding added his initials VBW (VB to the left and W to the right) on the coins he struck in Mainz.

The star type was also used by other mints subcontracted by Ludwig Gustav (Friedberg in der Wetterau, Neustadt unter Breuberg, and others) who produced rather crude and debased coins, the reason why the imperial permission was withdrawn so early.

The pieces with the "a" mintmark are commonly attributed to the Wurzburg mint. It is interesting to note that Ulrich Burkhard Willerding, the mintmaster of Mainz who minted the 15 Kreuzer to the right standard, was eventually accused of forgery and imprisoned for many years. Even one of his successors as mintmaster in Mainz, Conrad Bethmann (the grandfather of the founders of the Bethmann Bank in Frankfurt), testified that Willerding was not guilty at all, but it was only after Bethmann's death in 1701 that the innocent minter of the Hohenlohe 15 Kreuzer was finally released from prison and appointed mintmaster of Mainz again (from 1702 to 1714).

Gerhard Schoen

How great to get such a useful reply so quickly! This is an example of how the NI Bulletin can be so useful, bringing together people interested in certain numismatic questions...I wish we had more such 'dialogues' in the Bulletin.

Robert Ronus

Dear Mr. Ford, in response to your article in the NI bulletin about Francisco Morazán, mintage of the 1992 gold coins was 1,500 pieces each. Also, it is not true that Honduras has never issued coins with any portrait other than Morazán. There is one coin depicting Cabañas, but most coins have been minted with the likeness of Lempira.

Gerhard Schoen

The Lempiras of Honduras do not actually show a portrait of Chief Lempira because no one knows what he looked like. The Spanish did not draw his picture before they killed him. The representation of Lempira as shown on Honduran coins was the result of a council in 1930 in Tegucigalpa, where the members agreed to show Lempira as he appears now on the coins. The face was drawn to resemble a Honduran Indian of the 1920s and 1930s.

It is not an actual portrait of Chief Lempira. Dr. Mario Felipe Martinez Castillo, a major historian, has written about this. I am aware that Jose Trinidad Cabañas appears on Honduran currency, but I am not aware of any coin showing his distinguished portrait. If it is a very recent coin, then I most likely would not know about it and I regret that because I find him an admirable historical figure.

Perhaps Gerhard can enlighten all of us by giving us the denomination, year(s) and catalog number for the Cabañas coin.

Howard Ford

Dear Dr. Ford, many thanks for the explanation of the Indian Chief design on the Honduran coins. Attached is a picture of the 10 Lempiras 2005 coin on the Bicentennial of Birth of José Trinidad Cabañas Fiallos. It is listed as S #46.

Gerhard Schoen



(Image enlarged)

NI

Membership Report

The following persons have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by September 1, 2009 the memberships are effective that day.

- 2713 Michael Chou, email: mhlchou@yahoo.com. He collects Asian.
2714 Jon Stich. Interests: Roman, old Chinese, USA & WW Banknotes.

NI

The Creation of the Bahia Mint and the First Brazilian Pattern

Alberto Passhaus

During the first two hundred years after the Discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese, the colonial monetary situation was critical. Neither the circulation of foreign currency in the territory nor revaluations by counterstamping were meeting the demands of the growing population of the new land.

Complaints about the lack of circulating currency are repeatedly stressed in the High Administration Officials' Reports of the Colony to the King. Because of this, King Pedro II authorized by the Law of March 8th, 1694 the establishment of the country's first mint in Salvador, Bahia. This document shows the concern about *"the great damage which was suffering the residents of that State (Brazil) which did not have the necessary means to buy things for their livelihood."*

The same law established that all gold and silver coins circulating should be delivered to the mint to be melted and coined into new colonial currency, twenty percent higher in value than the currency of Portugal. Also, it was determined that the King would relinquish his rights of seigniorage; however, when the mint was transferred to Pernambuco in 1700, only five years later, the seigniorage was reinstated.

This was not the first time that Portugal authorized the minting of coins for a colony. Due to the heavy trading with India during the reign of Don Sebastião I, coins were minted in Goa and Calicut. What made possible the creation of Brazil's first mint was not the lack of money, which was a real problem, but surely the discovery of gold mines in 1693.

The twenty percent increase above Portuguese currency had a strong power of keeping the new coins inside the Colony. Also, the circulation of Portuguese coins was totally prohibited, and anyone found using Portuguese currency in a transaction could be exiled to Angola as punishment.

Most of the administration and workers for the new mint were transferred from Portugal, except for a few colonial residents. The mint was located inside the Customs building, which was demolished in 1875.¹ The coin press was the French *Balancier* type, introduced in Portugal in 1677 for gold coins, which enabled the striking of high quality coins, harder to clip or falsify.

During its first operation, between 1695 and 1698, the Bahia mint struck 20, 40, 80, 160, 320 and 640 réis coins in silver and 1,000, 2,000 and 4,000 réis coins in gold, all without mint marks. There are a great number of varieties for silver and gold coins, due to many different hand made coin dies. For the 640 réis, for example, we know of: 86 varieties (1695), 48 varieties (1696), 24 varieties (1697) and 8 varieties (1698).²

¹ The place where the first mint was located is about the same place that Salvador City Hall is located today.

² Gonçalves Ferreira, Lupércio. *Catálogo Descritivo das Moedas de 640 Réis. Recife*, 1986. A rare edition of only 300 copies which describes the varieties of the 640 réis coins from 1695 to 1833.



1695, 640 Réis, Narrow Crown Type (Variety 3A)
(enlarged $\times 1.5$)

Most of the known varieties are the large and narrow crown types for gold and silver. Though minted, there are no reports of the 1,000 réis coin for 1695, which we assume to have disappeared. The 2,000 réis type from 1695 is the second rarest coin for the series which still survives, with only 3 pieces reported, and the 1,000 réis from 1696 has only one known example. For silver, the 20 and 40 réis large crown types are equally rare, only one of each being known.

We can also mention another extremely rare coin that was minted at Bahia in 1695. It is the 640 réis pattern, of which only two pieces have survived to our time. As well as its rarity, the coin has a very interesting history.



Gomes

640 Réis Pattern
(enlarged $\times 1.5$)

Joseph Berlique was with the taskforce that came from Lisbon to start the Mint. Praised in some documents as a great die maker, he was placed in charge of preparing dies for the first coins. Unfortunately, according to the mint records, Mr. Berlique was not as good as his superiors in Portugal had said. Joseph Ribeiro Rangel, holding the position of Mint Judge, reported to King Pedro II:

... that up to the present moment, he (Joseph Berlique) was not able to make any good dies, being careless in the beginning, and considering his bare utility and inability for the position, I called the supplicant Domingos Ferreira Zambuja, which with a few lessons showed his curiosity and promptitude that has enabled us the dies that have been used to make money ...

A very interesting fact to mention is that the design of the new coins was not specified in the documents, only that the mint officials were in charge of it. Mint employees had great autonomy and very attractive salaries. Brazil should have followed the Lisbon mint regulations of 1686, but the King had also instructed in one Royal Order that the officials were not supposed to follow it strictly as some of the provisions were impracticable and that they could adjust it as needed to handle situations and problems that may occur.

The first types were minted January 5, 1695. That same day, Joseph Ribeiro Rangel presented to João de Lancastro, Governor of Bahia, and to João da Rocha Pitta, Mint Master, three types of 640 réis coins made by Domingos Ferreira Zambuja in the Balancier Press. After hearing all people present Rangel, Lancastro, and Pitta selected the Royal Shield for the obverse design³ with the inscription *Petrus II Dei gratia Portugaliae Rex I Braziliae Dominus*⁴ and for the reverse the cross of the Military Order of Christ, with an armillary sphere at the center and the inscription *Subquo Signo Nata Stabet*.⁵

Domingos Ferreira Zambuja could not have imagined what impact he would have on Brazilian Numismatics. His design remained almost unchanged for 123 years, when a new design was adopted in 1818 for silver coins.

Of the other three types there were no reports until 1867, when the curator of the Royal Collection of the Portuguese King D. Luís I, Augusto Carlos Teixeira de Aragão, announced at the Universal Exposition of 1867 the discovery of one the patterns of 1695. The coin was depicted in the Catalog of the Portuguese Pavilion

³ This is why the obverse of the coin shows the value, instead of the reverse with the colonial shield. In my opinion this created a strange orientation, but historically should be considered the "front" of the coin.

⁴ Peter II, King of Portugal by the Grace of God and Lord of Brazil.

⁵ *Subquo Signo Nata Stabet* (Born and Remaining Under this Sign). There are many interpretations for this expression. The most accepted is that it refers to the armillary sphere, which was the symbol of the Overseas Portuguese Administration, or the Military Order of Christ (Portugal), which was the successor to the Knights Templar (Portugal)—most of the Mint Administration belonged to that Order.

along with several other rare coins from the King's cabinet. His description of the coin, under number 1181, says:⁶

Quatre Patacas (Essai monétaire)

PETRVS.II.D.G.PORTVG.REX.D.BR. Écusson du Portugal, des deux côtés, la valeur 640, aux centre de deux rosettes et l'an 1695, au milieu de deux rosettes. R*. **TERRA S. CRVCIS. SVBILL VICTRIX, 1695.** Cercle de feuillage, au centre, une croix latine sur un calvarie. AR. Inédite et unique.⁷

Teixeira de Aragão, author of the *Descrição Geral e Histórica das Moedas Cunhadas em Nome dos Reis, Regentes e Governadores de Portugal*⁸, still one of the most comprehensive books on Portuguese coin history, planned a fourth volume of his work on coins of Brazil, and if he had accomplished it, we surely could know now the history behind the coin in the King Luís I cabinet. The coin belongs today to the Portuguese National Museum of Numismatics, which is unfortunately closed to the public.

Julius Meili, in *Das Brailianische Geldwesen, I Theil: Die Munzen der Colonie Brasilien*, published in 1897, and *Numismatische Sammlung von Julius Meili. Die Münzen der Colonie Brasilien. 1645 bis 1822*, published in 1895, quotes Aragão when describing the coin and commenting that up to that time it was still unique.

A second example of this pattern didn't appear until 1906, when the famous Schulman Auction House sold the legendary Judice dos Santos Collection.⁹ The lot was number 1788; the coin *de la plus haute rareté* was described as the second known example, and its final price was 180 florin. This same coin went to auction again, by Sotheby's Genève in 1987 *Monnaies du Brésil* auction, lot number 19.¹⁰ The description incorrectly described the coin as minted in Lisbon; the estimate was 25,000 to 30,000 Swiss Francs. The coin is reported to weigh 18.75 grams, a little higher than the 17.92 gram average for the 1695-98 coins minted in Bahia. Today, this coin belongs to *Museu Numismático Herculano Pires*, in São Paulo.

NI

⁶ Teixeira de Aragão, Augusto Carlos. *Description des Monnaies, Médailles et Autres Objets d' Art Concernant L' Histoire Portugaise du Travail*. Paris, Imprimerie Administrative de Paul Dupont, 1867, p. 89.

⁷ This description shows a clear mistake right in the beginning. The coin is mentioned as Four Patacas, when it should be Two Patacas (One Pataca = 320 réis).

⁸ Teixeira de Aragão was born in Lisbon in June 15th, 1823 and died in the same city in April 29th, 1903, at the fine old age of 89. Besides being the Royal Doctor and Curator of the King's Collection, he was also General Secretary for Portuguese India. His major work, *Descrição Geral e Histórica das Moedas Cunhadas em Nome dos Reis, Regentes e Governadores de Portugal* was printed in 3 volumes, in 1874, 1877, and 1880, covering all Portuguese Numismatic History up to then and the Colonies in India.

⁹ Schulman, Jacques. *Collection Joaquim José Judice dos Santos. Première Partie: Monnaies et Médailles de Portugal – Monnaies Coloniales*. Amsterdam, 26 March 1906.

¹⁰ *Monnaies du Brésil/ Coins of Brazil*. Auction catalog, Sotheby & Co., 09 November 1987.

Edge Varieties of the Brazilian 12,800 Reis

Kent Ponterio, Ponterio & Associates, NI #1221

The Brazilian 12,800 Reis, or "Dobras," minted from 1727 to 1733 display two distinctly different edge types. This can be seen on coins struck at all three mints: Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais. When originally minted, the coins had a diagonally reeded edge. This was applied to the blank planchet prior to the coin being struck (figure 3). In a decree dated November 29, 1732, King Joao V ordered the recall of all 12,800 Reis from circulation for application of a new edge with a repeated tulip design similar to that of the silver coinage (figure 4). This was done to prevent the clipping of coins which was done to steal gold. It was fairly easy for unscrupulous individuals to shave metal from a coin with a diagonal reeded edge and later re-apply lines where the metal had been removed. This would not be as easy to do to a coin with the tulip edge design. In the same decree which ordered the re-edging of the 12,800 Reis, King Joao V also ordered that no gold coins be minted in denominations larger than 6,400 Reis, or "Peca." This accounts for the brief period of seven years for which the 12,800 Reis were minted. Because the decree was issued late in 1732, it would have taken some time for the news to reach all the mints in Brazil and therefore the 12,800 Reis continued to be struck at some mints up until 1733.

Subtle yet distinct differences are visible in the two edge types on the 12,800 Reis. Specimens bearing the new tulip edge are generally slightly smaller in diameter and somewhat cup-shaped near the rim of the coin. This is caused by the pressure used when applying the new edge, causing metal to rise at the rim. On some specimens evidence of the original edge can easily be seen under the newly applied tulip edge (figure 5). In many cases one can determine which edge the coin has by looking at the obverse or reverse of the coin. If the coin has a hard flat surface leading to the rim of the coin it is most likely the originally diagonal edge reeding. If the coin has some rippling in the field and a raised rim, it most likely has had the tulip edge applied over the original edge.



Figure 1
12,800 Reis (Dobra) 1731/0 M
Original diagonal edge reeding



Figure 2
12,800 Reis (Dobra) 1730 M
Tulip edge reeding applied over original diagonal edge reeding



Figure 3
Original diagonal edge reeding



Figure 4
Tulip edge reeding applied over original diagonal edge

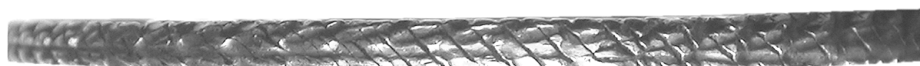


Figure 5
Tulip edge reeding applied over original diagonal edge reeding (clear evidence of original reeding)

This article originally published in Ponterio & Associates' auction catalog "N.Y.I.N.C. '09."

NI

Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 Belgium | 5 Albania |
| 2 Australia | 6 Austria |
| 3 Bermuda | 7 Argentina |
| 4 Andorra | 8 Bulgaria |

NI

Solidus of Leo I from the Grave of Childeric I Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

Childeric I lived from approximately AD 440 to 481. Son of Merovech, he was the Merovingian king from 457 until his death around the year 481. He was the father of Clovis, who is recognized as the first king of all the Franks, and thus of France.

The grave of Childeric I was discovered in 1653 during repairs being made to the church of Saint-Brice in Tournai, in the Southern Netherlands (now Belgium). Among the many items recovered from the grave were some coins, about a hundred gold coins and two hundred silver.

Most of the golden artifacts from the grave were stolen from the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* (French National Library) in 1831 and presumably were melted down. However, drawings had been made of some of the artifacts and copies were made of some of the items. Illustrated below are two of the items; the ring of Childeric and a solidus of Leo I (457-74). At the end of this article is a solidus of Leo for comparison.

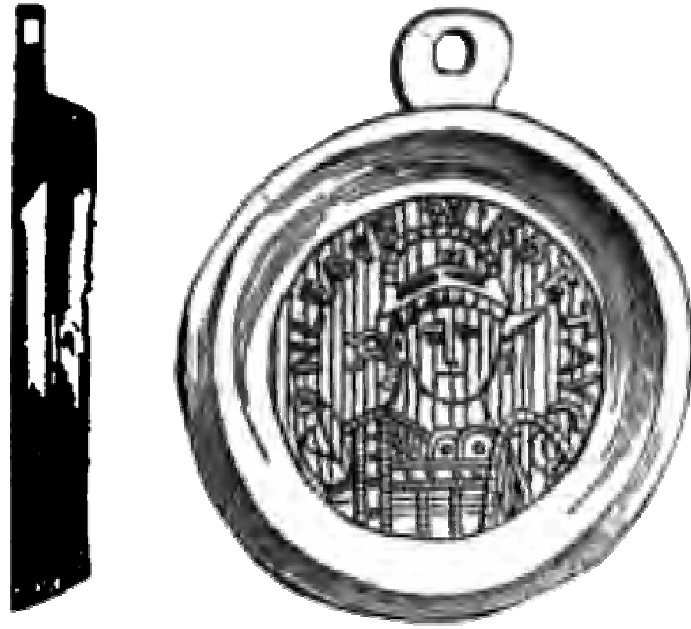


Gold ring and engraving of its design.¹

Gold ring with bust facing, holding spear. The inscription around reads: CHILDIRICI REGIS (of King Childeric).

The portrait design on the ring resembles the Roman gold coins of the era.

¹ The image of the ring is from Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childeric_I) where the ring is identified as being in the collection of the *Monnaie de Paris* (Pari Mint collection). The engraving is from *Le Tombeau de Childéric Ier Roi des Francs, Restitué a L'aide de L'archéologie et des Découvertes Récentes Faites en France, en Belgique, en Suisse, en Allemagne et en Angleterre* by L'Abbé Cochet (Jean Benoît Désiré Cochet). Paris: 1859, p. 369.



Solidus of Leo I in bone mount, from grave of Childeric I.²



Gold solidus with obverse of the type embedded in the bone mount above. The obverse inscription: D N LEO PERPET AVG.

Leo I. A.D. 457-474. AV solidus (20 mm, 4.42 g). Constantinople, A.D. 462-466. Helmeted and cuirassed bust facing slightly right, holding spear over shoulder and shield with horseman motif / Victory standing left, holding long voided cross; star in right field; A/CONOB. RIC 605; Depeyrot 93/1. (Heritage Rare Coins: lot 12104, auction 410, Long Beach, June 2006).

NI

² Cochet, p. 412.

Coins Countermarked with Political Messages and Related Pieces

Gregory G. Brunk, NI #749

A number of NI members and others contacted the writer during the last few months, Markus Molenda and Reinhold Jordan being particularly helpful. So many new types were reported that the catalog almost doubled in size. While better interpretations of some stamps have been suggested, the origins of others are still uncertain because they refer to obscure historical incidents.

The writer also is working on a multi-volume reference to medieval and modern coins that were countermarked by governmental authorities. Readers are encouraged to contact him about unreported countermarks and new information about known pieces. If you send him a scan, he will be happy to provide you with any information he has about it. Unfortunately, there is now so much spam on the internet that email services are overwhelmed with junk. Their response is to delete most emails from the other services. With luck, Brunk can be reached at *GB19999@Cedarnet.org* or *GregoryGBrunk@Gmail.com*, and otherwise at PO Box 125, Hudson, Iowa 50643.

Catalog: Parts A to C

© 2009, Gregory G. Brunk

— Austria —

Francis I

So many early 19th century French silver coins are countermarked with small and medium-size busts that they often were grouped into large lots in 20th century European auctions. That is an indication the coin dealers of the day did not think the pieces had much value. Only a few such coins were illustrated until recently, but were just described as "stamped with the bust of Napoleon" or something similar.

No matter who really is portrayed, such stamps almost always are identified today as an important political figure, and the coins are claimed to have had a political purpose. That is true of these pieces as well. One auctioneer identified them as having the bust of Napoleon, but if so, it is not his usual bust. Another identified the stamp as the young Francis I (1804-1835) of Austria, which seems a bit more likely, but the stamp is so small that who is portrayed is not certain.

Since so many different busts of European rulers are found on coins, the various stamps of this sort must have had a particular purpose during the early 19th century. Apparently they only were used on coins as an afterthought—possibly many decades after the stamps had been made.

The countermarked bust on the five francs of Louis XVIII is unusual for this sort of piece because it is badly struck. That makes it look worn and therefore contemporary, but there is no wear on the reverse of the coin across from the countermark. Indeed, it appears that almost all pieces of this general sort went into collectors' cabinets without ever having been returned to circulation. Has a reader seen this stamp on a

sword, a piece of jewelry or something else? Only when someone recognizes the source of such stamps will their true nature become known.

Laureate Bust of Francis I Right in Depressed Oval

Five Francs: 1813, 1816



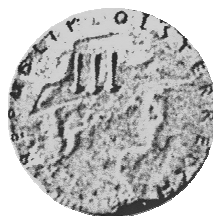
Social Democrats

The Austrian Social Democratic Party was outlawed after staging an unsuccessful revolt in February of 1933. At that time it reportedly countermarked coins with three parallel arrows, which was the symbol of the Iron Front coalition of liberal factions in Germany (Holzer 1943). More generally, the symbol has been used by many European socialist parties.

"UK" indicates data unknown to the writer, in this case the date of the coin.

Three Parallel Arrows

Austrian Ten Groschen: UK



Burning of the German Reichstag

Although the Nazis did not have a majority in the Reichstag, Hitler was appointed Chancellor by President Hindenburg in 1933 after the previous government fell. An election was scheduled for March 5th, but the German Reichstag (Parliament) building burned a few days before the election. The Nazis and the National Peoples Party won a majority of seats and the two parties soon fused. The Reichstag agreed to allow the government to enact decrees without going through the formal legislative process, which gave Hitler great power, particularly after the death of Hindenburg.

The only opposition to this "Enabling Act" came from left-wing parties. Ernst Torgler was the parliamentary leader of the German communists. He was one of the people accused of burning the Reichstag, but was acquitted. This countermark probably was made from single letter punches. It apparently was issued by Austrian communists. (Rettet possibly indicates "rescue" or "rescuer" —*ed.*)

Rettet / Torgler

Austrian Groschen: 1933 (illustrated)

Austrian Two Groschen: 1928



Austrian Nazis

Numerous swastikas of varied sizes that are stamped on various European coins have appeared at auction or were illustrated (usually poorly) in past articles. During the 1960s and early 1970s many fantasy countermarks appeared on the market. Many of the swastika countermarked coins seem to be fantasies of that era.

The genuine countermarked pieces that were made by the Nazis seventy years ago were returned to circulation as their purpose was political propaganda. Therefore, many of the genuine pieces will be really beat up or have discoloration and dirt in the recessed portions of the stamp. Later fakes may show iridescence in the recessed portions of the swastika. The fakes will not have any signs of wear after stamping, although the coins themselves may be well worn.

Such characteristics indicate that the coins were not put back into circulation, but probably were made for sale to collectors. This is not a perfect way to determine if a piece is a fantasy, but without examining dozens of examples from the same stamp, this may be as good a criterion as can be devised. So the writer will try to point out the obvious characteristics of uncertain countermarks in later listings.

Austria outlawed the Nazi Party in 1933, and Hans Holzer (1943: 37) reported that swastika countermarks were being applied to Austrian coins in the early 1940s "on a mass production basis" and then returned to circulation. At about the same time the Nazis also modified some Austrian coins for propaganda purposes, by scraping off part of the limbs of the cross potent that was the symbol of the Austrian Republic. Doing so turned it into a swastika. Although the writer has seen a photo of such a piece, it was not good enough to be reproduced.

Apparent Swastika Fantasy

Half a dozen examples of this particular variety of swastika on various Austrian coins appeared in a single auction in 1976. All the coins were in pristine condition, and none circulated after having been stamped. That also is true of the other examples of

this variety that the writer has traced. The implication is this style stamp is a fantasy that was made during the 1960s or early 1970s.

Swastika Incuse with Very Thin Arms

Groschen: 1925, 1930 UK
Two Groschen: 1936
Five Groschen: 1931
Ten Groschen: 1925
Fifty Groschen: 1935
Schilling: 1934 (2), 1935



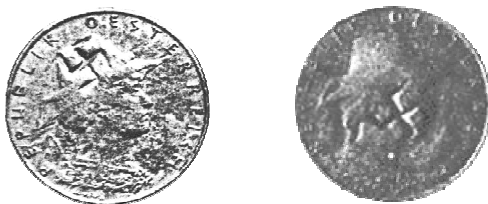
Examples of Uncirculated Schillings

Genuine Swastika

This variety was illustrated by Holzer in 1943, and so it certainly is legitimate.

Swastika Incuse with Slightly Bent Arms

Ten Groschen: 1925, 1928



Miscellaneous Swastikas

A number of other size swastikas have appeared at auction, but so far only a single example of each type has been reported, and none of the photographs is good enough to be reproduced. These swastikas range from so small as to be hard to see to as large as a groschen. Some of these pieces probably are contemporary, but others do not show any wear after stamping. That suggests they were made more recently for sale to tourists or collectors, possibly from old, legitimate stamps.

There is a parallel here to merchant countermarks. While there are not many fake merchant countermarks, there is one particularly well known type. During the early 1960s someone found a broken and discarded trademark stamp of the Ford

automobile company. He countermarked numerous coins and apparently sold them at car collector shows. They were not recognized as "tourist trap" pieces until Hank Thoele noted over a dozen for sale on the internet. All have a broken "F" in *FORD* and the latest date coin is 1963, which tells us when they were stamped. As yet we do not have enough information on most political countermarks to be sure which actually had a political purpose, and which were made to sell to collectors or tourists.

Miscellaneous Swastikas (All Different Size)

Groschen: 1929 (2), 1930, 1935

Ten Groschen: 1925

References:

Holzer, Hans. 1943. "The Austrian Republic Fought Its Political Wars on Coins," *Numismatic Review* Sept: 36-37.

— Belgium —

Merchant Countermarks Incorrectly Attributed to the 1830 Revolt

In 1815 the largely Catholic Belgium was united with the Protestant Netherlands by provisions of the Congress of Vienna. It revolted fifteen years later and soon became an independent nation. A number of works note in passing that two countermarks were applied to Netherlands coins during the 1830 Belgian Revolt (e.g., Duffield-1624, William Craig's supplement to *Germanic Coinages*, page v).

Leopold I of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was Belgium's first king, and Craig argued that B indicates *Belgique*, while L indicates Leopold. The confusion comes from early works that mentioned a B countermark, but did not illustrate any examples. In fact, some 1823-33 Belgian tokens of Saint-Bernard have a "B" in a circle countermark (De Mey 1981: 51-53). When the letter L was noted countermarked on a Netherlands coin, it was a short leap for an auctioneer to argue that it meant Leopold.

The only photograph of a coin countermarked "L" that could be located was lot 1086 in Joseph Lepczyk's auction of Nov. 23, 1983. That 182X cent also is countermarked E and has a small, square punch mark as if the three stamps are associated. Indeed, Lepczyk noted that the other example of an "L" countermark he knew about is from a different stamp. The only traced example of a "B" countermark appeared in the Jacques Schulman auction of Sept. 27, 1982, lot 700. It is quite different in style.

Therefore, all the "B" and "L" countermarks on Netherlands coins appear to be merchant stamps that turned the pieces into private tokens.

B in Beaded Circle
Netherlands Cent: 1823



L (Ornate, relatively large script letter) in Beaded Circle
Netherlands Cent: 1827, 182X
(The pieces are from different style stamps, but only one was illustrated)



Leopold II

Originally the Belgian Congo was not a colonial possession of Belgium, but was the personal property of King Leopold II (1865-1909). No countermarked coins are known that refer to the Belgian Congo, but a few engraved pieces do. On this engraved 1866 Belgian franc, Leopold II has been turned into a black man wearing an earring and a native cap.



Another coin, a crudely engraved 1867 two francs, shows Leopold II in a French-style military uniform, with the date 1889 countermarked behind his head. The significance of that date is not known.



"V" for Victory

It has been reported that Belgian coins were countermarked with a large letter "V" during World War II, but the writer has not seen an example.

References:

- De Mey, J. R. 1981. *Monnaies conventionnelles et monnaies de necessite belges*. Brussels.
- Dickinson, Richard E. 1978. *Auction of the Richard E. Dickerson Collection of Satirical and Political Coins and Medals*. Jess Peters Auction 92. Decatur (Illinois), March 10-11, 1978: 18-23.

— Brazil —

Peace of Ponche Verde

The War of the Farrapos (1835-45) began in Rio Grande de Sol and was the bloodiest of all the Brazilian civil wars. The independence of the Republic of Piratini was declared its 1836. Its name comes from the Indian village of Piratininga, which today is Sao Paulo. The Peace of Ponche Verde ended the conflict.

Only one example of this countermark has been noted and nothing about it has been discovered. Its style is a bit odd, and it clearly was made using a coin press since the impression is very good. It could be a mint sport from a 19th century medal, a piece issued to mark the centennial of the peace treaty, or something more recent. The date of the coin is of no use in dating the countermark because old Brazilian coins often were used as planchets for commemorative stamps during the mid-20th century (see Prober 1966).

**Trumpet and PAZ in Clouds above Crossed Swords, Radiant Liberty
Cap and Cardinal's Tiara, 1834-1845 / (NICLOS R.) PONCHE-
VERDE. 1845, all in beaded circle
960 Reis: 1825**



Sao Paulo Revolt

Getulio Vargas seized control of Brazil in 1930 and implemented a centralization policy that transferred power from the states to the national government. In 1932 a revolt centered in Sao Paulo tried to force the national government to become more democratic, but the effort was not supported by the other states or the Catholic Church. Within two years the revolt was quelled, and by the late 1930s Vargas had become a largely unrestrained dictator.

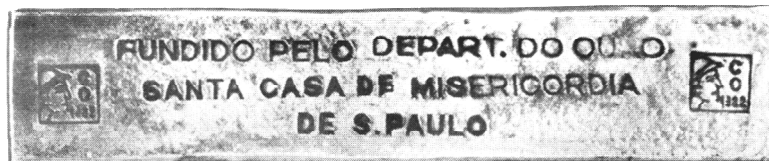
During the siege of Sao Paulo the Brazilian Numismatic Society suggested that coins and bars be stamped and sold to raise funds for the revolt (Gibbs 1944, Prober 1966: 154-155). In this way the *Companha do Ouro da Revolucao* or Gold Campaign collected donations for the revolt. One hundred silver bars and twelve gold bars were cast from donated coins that were melted for the purpose. Howard Gibbs (1944: 15), the famous collector of odd and curious monies, reported the bar that he had examined was 90 x 19 x 11 mm in size, and it had a silver fineness of fifty percent. Its low fineness resulted from the fact that mostly lower standard silver coins were melted to make the bars.

A bar's fineness and weight are stamped on its sides. Its top has two square marks, or what would be called countermarks if they appeared on a coin. The three line inscription reads FUNDIDO PELO DEPART. DE OURO / SANTA CASA DE MISERICORDIA / DE S. PAULO (Department of Gold, Municipal Pawn Shop of Sao Paulo). It is flanked by two identical stamps, which consist of a helmeted head and C / O / 1932.

The bars came with a certificate that indicates in Portuguese, "Department of Gold, Municipal Pawnshop of San Paulo. Serial number _____. We certify Senhor _____ has bought a silver bar of which 100 have been cast from coins donated to the Gold Campaign and has the following characteristics: Number _____. Fineness _____. Weight _____. San Paulo ____ de ____ de 1934. Issued by the Committee and printed on antique paper." The blank spaces were filled in when a bar was purchased.



Prober's drawing of one of the bars.



An actual bar

Various sorts of coins also were countermarked with a similar style helmet over 1932 / C. O. in a circle. Apparently a large number were countermarked as over seventy pieces have been traced, and they are not exceedingly rare, as often was claimed by auctioneers when the pieces first appeared in American and European sales a few decades ago. The writer has not seen any obvious counterfeits, but others' comments suggest that some counterfeits exist. Indeed, that seems likely since numerous counterfeits of 19th Brazilian governmental countermarks were made for collectors.

Helmet / 1932 / C. O. in Circle (with Background of Parallel Lines)

Copper coins:

10 Reis: 1869

40 Reis: 1827, 1831

80 Reis: 1830, 1831, 1832, UK

Aluminum-Bronze Coins

2000 Reis: 1922

Silver Coins

160 Reis: 1813

200 Reis: 1862, 1867, 1868 (2), 1869, UK (2)

320 Reis: 1817

500 Reis: 1860, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1876, 1888 (2)
1889 (3), 1913 UK (2)

640 Reis: 1701, 1821 (2), 1824

960 Reis: 1815, 1816, 1817 (2), 1819 (2), 1820, 1822, 1823,
1824, UK

1000 Reis: 1852, 1853, 1861, 1862 (2), 1863, 1869, 1888,
1889 (2), 1913, UK (2)

2000 Reis: 1832, 1852, 1853, 1863, 1875 (2), 1887 (2),
1888, 1889, 1911, 1912, UK (2)



Ten Reis



2000 Reis



960 Reis



1000 Reis

Commemorative Countermark of the Sao Paulo Revolt

During the mid-20th century the Brazilian mint countermarked 19th-century silver and copper coins for museums, coin clubs and other organizations, and it also issued silver bars with the same stamps. In 1955 it commemorated the 1932 Revolt for the Sao Paulo Numismatic Society by countermarking coins and forty-five silver bars (Prober-1745, KM-CC10). There probably is a small legend under the bust, but the writer has not been able to read it.

SANGVE PAVLISTA DADA O BEM DO BRASIL XVIII ANIV 1932-55
around Wreathed and Helmeted Bust, all in Beaded Circle
960 Reis: 1814



The same stamp on a silver bar

References:

- Gibbs, Howard D. 1944. "Countermarked Coins and Bars Issued During the Brazilian Revolution, 1932-1934," *Numismatic Review* Oct: 14-15.
Prober, Kurt. 1966. *Catalogo das moedas brasileiras*. Sao Paulo.

— Canada —

First World War

These countermarks are made from individual letter punches. They apparently protest World War I.

TO HELL WITH THE KING★

Canadian Ten Cents: 1914

GOD SAVE THE GOOD KAISER

Canadian Large Cent: 1911

Canadian Arabs

It was reported in the early 1970s that these pieces were issued by the Arab community of Vancouver, British Columbia. They commemorate Gamal Abdel Nasser, who became President of Egypt in 1956, and later became President of the United Arab Republic when that federation was created in 1958. The countermark appears under the chin of Queen Elizabeth II on Manitoba commemorative nickel dollars. The most extensive contemporary comment about these pieces is a short note that appeared in the *India-Asiatic Society Newsletter* (1971: 25).

"1970 Counterstamped Nassar DOLLAR," the counterstamp was an oval encircling "G.A.N. 1918-70" apparently the initials of Gamal Abdul Nasser, past president of the UAR. The "story" surrounding this tale is that the counterstamping was the product of a nationalistic Arab community on the west coast of Canada. My question is why was the counterstamp not in Arabic legends??? The writeup was very vague until it came to the mintage figure: Approx. 500 pcs.

The pieces also were mentioned by Stephen Dushnick (1978) in his book on Canadian dollars. "The Arab community in Vancouver, B.C. counterstamped 1,000 Manitoba commemorative dollars when President Nasser of Egypt died in 1970." Note that the mintage estimates differ. This is typical of much of what has been published on political countermarks because it is so hard to discover reliable information about them. In 1999 a Quebec coin dealer was offering the coins at \$100.00 each.

G. A. N. / 1918-70 in Oval

1970 Manitoba Dollars: Between 500 and 1000 were countermarked?



Nickel Dollar

References:

Dushnick, Stephen. 1978. *Silver and Nickel Dollars of Canada*. Hicksville, NY.

— China —

Medals of Volunteer Militias?

There were a number of private militias in China during the first decades of the 20th century. Their members were mostly foreign nationals, but some militias also included Chinese. Michael (1996) noted that the coin countermarked HANKOW was listed in one of the publications of Eduard Kann, the famous numismatist who specialized in Chinese coins. Mitchell proposed that these two pieces are military medals of volunteer militias, which is plausible, but has not been verified. They also could have had a much more mundane purpose, such as prizes for colonial flower shows.

HANKOW / 1938

Yuan Shih Kai Dollar: 1914



LIMCHOW / APRIL 1931
Yuan Shih Kai Dollar: 1914



Communists

This unique countermarked yuan also was in the collection of Eduard Kann (Hans Schulman Auction, June 18, 1971, lot 517). The countermark means "Soviet," and the piece is listed as KM-650k "Coinage of Uncertain Origin."

Three Chinese Characters for "Soviet"
Yuan Shih Kai Dollar: 1914



The only known example of a countermarked red star – a hammer and sickle in star – on a Chinese coin appeared in the Sept. 7, 1984 Money Co. auction, lot 566. The coin did not circulate after having been stamped, but with only one known example there is no way to determine if it is a propaganda countermark or a more recent fantasy.

Red Star (Hammer and Sickle in Star)
Honan Republican Twenty Cash



Victory over the Japanese

This countermark reads *T'ung-meng Sheng-li* for "Allied Victory." Arthur Coole, the well known numismatist who specialized in Chinese coins, noted that "President Chiang Kai-shek would have parties for different groups of American servicemen following the Japanese defeat. He presented each visitor with one of these mementoes" (quoted in *World Coins* 1972: 218). They probably were intended to be worn as military-style medals.

***T'ung-meng Sheng-li* for Allied Victory**
Junk Dollar: 1933, 1934



Pro-Democracy Movement

A recent message on CollectingBanter.com noted what seems to be a fundraising piece. It was described as an elaborately stamped Szechuan-Shensi Soviet District silver dollar. Since that coin itself is quite valuable, what is countermarked is probably a cast copy. Unfortunately, there was no illustration. The message refers to a hammer and sickle in a "Cancellation Circle," presumably like a "No Parking" street sign.

**CHINA FREEDOM DOLLAR / SUPPORT THE FEDERATION / SAVE
THE STUDENTS and Hammer and Sickle in Cancellation Circle
Rev: Chinese Characters and Hammer and Sickle in Cancellation Circle**

Copy of a circa 1934 Szechuan-Shensi Soviet Dollar

References:

Michael, Tom. 1996. "Historical Countermarks Converted Coinage," *World Coin News* April: 50-52, 78.

— Czechoslovakia —

This nation was created when the Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated at the end of the First World War. No Czech countermarked coins are known, but this engraved 1909 Austrian five kronen commemorates the nation's independence. The Emperor Franz Joseph's tongue is sticking out as he is being hanged! The reverse has been smoothed off and now reads V U POMINKU NA 28 RIJEN, meaning "In Memoriam 28 October," which was declared to be Independence Proclamation Day in 1918.



References:

Dickerson, Richard E. 1978. *Auction of the Richard E. Dickerson Collection of Satirical and Political Coins and Medals*. Jess Peters Auction 92. Decatur, March 10-11, 1978: 18-23.

— Cyprus —

This Mediterranean island came under British control in 1878 and was made a formal colony in 1925. After the Second World War the Cypriot Greeks pressed for union with Greece, a policy opposed by the Turkish minority. In 1950 Cyprus was granted independence on the conditions that it would not unify with Greece, minority rights would be respected, and the island would not be partitioned. Sectarian riots broke out, and the level of animosity between ethnic groups continued to increase.

Attempts were made to modify the country's constitution and a coup of military officers who favored unification with Greece deposed the government on July 15, 1974. Five days later the Turks invaded. They occupied the northern forty percent of the island and proclaimed it the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus when peace negotiations failed. In the late 1970s about 200,000 Greeks were expelled from the North, and many Turks fled north from the Greek South. In 1983 the North declared itself the independent nation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, but it was recognized by few countries and stagnated economically.

Two decades ago Paul Robinson noted in passing that "Defacement of the currency for political reasons has been seen in recent years in Cyprus" (1987: 263). Unfortunately, he did not provide any details, but mentioned that his source was a person in the Department of Coins and Medals of the British Museum. Does a reader know anything about these pieces?

References:

Robinson, Paul. 1987. "Some Politically Defaced 19th Century Coins from Wiltshire," *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 1987: 263-266.



Coin Quiz

Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

A list of coinage subjects from countries starting with A or B. Which countries are associated with the subjects below? I used the *SCWC*, 31st edition.

1. Leopold, Lion, Albert, World Fair.
2. Jabiru Stork, Numbat, Captain Cook, Banjo Paterson.
3. Queen Angel Fish, Wild Boar, Lily, a Triangle.
4. Joan D. M. Bisbe, Bishop of Sala, Palau del Princep.
5. Zog I, Prince Skanderberg, Railroad (COTY 1988), Seaport of Durazzo.
6. Porsche, Bummerl House, Grillparzer, Schubert, Mozart.
7. San Martin, Conquest of Patagonia, Pampas Cat, Eva Peron.
8. Ferdinand I, Boris III, Slavonic Alphabet, Vasil Levsky.

Answers are elsewhere in this edition.

NI

Valentinian I, AD 364-375
Silver Multiple of 24 Miliarisia (48 Siliquae)
Ira & Larry Goldberg Inc.



Valentinian I, AD 364-375. Silver Multiple of 24 Miliarisia (48 Siliquae) 104.3 g. 66 mm, minted at Antioch, AD 369. Diademed, cuirassed and draped bust right of Valentinian. Reverse: Legend in four lines within laurel wreath; below, "AN" (mintmark for Antioch). Unpublished, and apparently unique; cf. Kent, RIC X, p. 139 discussing the Priscus Attalus medallion of quarter-pound weight. Some light porosity and displaying stray marks.

This, the largest silver coin known of the Roman Empire, is a silver multiple weighing one-third of a Roman pound of silver. Remarkably thick in comparison to contemporary silver coins, it was struck at a time when silver, as a metal, was scarce. The normal silver unit of account was the siliqua; 24 siliquae equaled a gold solidus. The siliqua, the silver miliarensis and the gold solidus were introduced during the monetary reforms of Constantine the Great. During Constantine's reign, gold was valued at about 14 times the worth of an equal weight of silver. Modern numismatists use the terms "siliqua" and "miliarensis" as denomination names; however, they have no basis in fact as having been used in ancient times to refer to a specific coin.

This gargantuan gift was no doubt presented to a high-ranking Roman officer or dignitary. One theory that has been advanced is the possibility that Count Theodosius himself, peacemaker of Britain at the time, was the recipient of the medallion. A likely occasion for this honor was Valentinian's quinquennial celebration, held on 25 February AD 369.

From Ira & Larry Goldberg Pre-Long Beach auction 26 May 2009, lot 1931.

NI

Aistulf, King of the Lombards
CNG

Appointed Duke of the border Duchy of Friuli when his brother Ratchis became king of the Lombards in 744, Aistulf himself became king in 749 when Ratchis was forced to abdicate. During his tenure, Aistulf attempted to expand Lombardic interests in Italy by raiding both the Byzantine exarchate of Ravenna and the territories of the papacy. In 751, the Lombards took Ravenna and began to pressure Rome. In response, Pope Stephen II turned to the *de facto* Frankish king, Pepin *le Bref* (the Short) for assistance. In return for a pontifical recognition of his crown, Pepin crossed the Alps, defeated Aistulf, and forced the Lombardic king to relinquish those territories he had extracted from the papacy. Now much reduced, Aistulf spent the remaining few years of his reign in the pursuit of pleasure. In 756 he was killed in a hunting accident. With his death, the Lombardic kingdom lost even more territory and influence in Italy in the face of an increasing alliance between the papacy and the Carolingians.



(Image enlarged)

LOMBARDS, Lombardy & Tuscany. Aistulf. 749-756. Æ Follis (1.43 g, 6h). Ravenna mint. Struck 751/2. Obverse: "[D] N IST VLF[VS REX]" facing crowned and draped bearded bust, holding globus cruciger in right hand; crown topped with cross. Reverse: large M; cross above, "[A]/N/N/[O] I" across field, "RAV" below. Bernareggi -; Ranieri 848 (same obverse die as illustration); BMC Vandals -; MEC 1, 324.

CNG auction Triton XII, New York International Coin Fair, January 6 & 7, 2009. Lot 860.

The Mystery of the Carthaginian Map Coins

Mark McMenamin, NI #2563

In 1996 I proposed that certain gold staters minted by the Carthaginians in 350 BC showed, in the reverse exergue beneath the image of a standing horse, a small map of the world as known to the Carthaginians. The pattern beneath the horse in the exergue had been a long-standing numismatic puzzle, and my hypothesis provided a new solution to the problem. I argued that the exergue map region stretched from the Middle East to the shores of America, thus making it the most extensive surviving map from antiquity.



After appearing in print,¹ the map-coin hypothesis generated considerable press, culminating in its use as a plot device in Clive Cussler and Paul Kemprecos' novel *The Navigator*.² The exergue map concept also generated critics, several of whom claimed that it seemed highly unlikely that the Carthaginians, known to be willing to go to great lengths to protect the secrecy of their trade routes, would be so foolish as to advertise their map of the world.³ Writing about the coin theory, Roy A. Decker⁴ commented that:

In the 1990s...McMenamin discovered what appears to be a tiny map on some Carthaginian gold coins. The map is placed on the reverse of the coin, beneath the feet of the famous horse depicted on so many Punic coins. If it is indeed a map, and this appears to be the case, it shows Europe, Africa and parts of America. Some ancient coin experts have dismissed the map as nothing but a bit of debris on the dies used to strike the coins, citing other coins with irregular shapes in that same area of the coin. Their examples are not very similar to the coins showing a map⁵...Considering the secrecy cherished by

¹ McMenamin, M., "Cartography on Carthaginian gold staters," *The Numismatist*, November 1996; McMenamin, M. A., "The Phoenician World Map," *Mercator's World*, May/June 1997.

² G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York (2007).

³ D. P. Temple and C. R. Cunningham, "More about maps on coins," *The Numismatist*, March 1997.

⁴ R. A. Decker, "The Secret Land," pp. 109-116 in P. Peet, ed., *Underground!* (2005), p. 114.

⁵ Decker here appears to be referring here to R. G. Doty, "Counterfeit currency," *Mercator's World*, July/August 1997.

Carthaginians, it seems quite plausible that after a number of the coins were struck with the map on them, some government official discovered it and ordered the map removed from the coin dies.

I endorse Decker's analysis of the problem. If Decker's scenario is correct, however, it begs the question of how the maps appeared on Carthaginian coins in the first place. We may be able to answer this question by considering who might have been directly responsible for striking early Punic gold coins.

The Carthaginian trade economy was based on barter, hence Carthaginians were slow to adopt a monetary system based on coinage. When they finally decided to begin minting coins, it seems reasonable to assume that they required expertise from the Greek world where a coin manufacturing tradition was superbly established. Indeed, the earliest Carthaginian coins show an unmistakable Greek influence. The difficulty here was that Carthaginians and Greeks were often at each other's throats. Carthage, for example, fought many battles with Greek colonists in Sicily. But the Greek world held the talent that could help found a Punic mint.

It is therefore possible that the first Punic celators had divided loyalties. This might have been particularly so if they were, say, prisoners of war spared an untimely death in order to help set up the mint. Alternatively, and I see this alternative as more likely, they might have been hired as "mint mercenaries," placing them in a position where it might be possible for them to serve as double agents.

The following scenario is speculative but nonetheless plausible. Greek celators were hired by Carthage to initiate a Punic gold coinage around 350 BC. One of these skilled men served as a spy for the Greeks, and had orders to somehow get information about Carthaginian trade routes back to their Greek competitors. In a brilliant move, after gaining some knowledge of Carthaginian maps, our spy celator managed to carve a tiny version of the secret map right into one of the dies for the coins he had been hired to manufacture. In this way he virtually guaranteed that some of the coins would make their way back to Greek headquarters. The Greeks back home knew what to watch for in "pocket change," but everyone else, *including the Carthaginians*, remained clueless. This represents an ancient counterpart to a modern spy operation engaged in, say, smuggling secret documents on microfilm.

The plan functioned flawlessly for the first series of gold staters, but then, just as inferred by Decker, Carthaginian officials caught on to the exergue map, unmasked the spy, and ensured that future coins were map-free. The unfortunate spy (did he escape? was he executed? did he have plans to engrave additional map coin dies?) at least had the satisfaction of knowing that his accomplishments as spy could not be undone. This is so because the initial mintage of gold staters had already been spent, thus rendering it impossible for the Carthaginians to recall a coinage that carried away their most precious secrets. This scenario seems to fit with what we know about the brilliant (and sneaky) ancient Greeks, and thus becomes a kind of Trojan horse account in reverse, complete with the horse!

The White-Ship Disaster, Part Two

The Pennies of Stephen, Maud and Pereric

Howard Ford, NI #LM90

When we first wrote about the sinking of the Norman vessel *Blanche Nef*, in our bulletin for November 2007, we indicated that for the English the most devastating part of the disaster was that it carried to his death young Prince William Adelin, the only legitimate son and male heir of King Henry I of England and Normandy. William's drowning threw the question of the succession to the thrones of both countries into chaos, leading to almost two decades of destruction. This period of civil strife is known as the "Anarchy," and it caused terrible suffering for the common people. As one English chronicler expressed it, in the nineteen years of the pains of civil war, "Christ and his angels slept."



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Empress_matilda.jpg

Matilda (Maud)

Although Henry had fathered a large number of children, only one other was legitimate, a daughter christened Adelaide, who later took the name of her Scottish mother, "Maud." This is the name preferred by the Scots and by the Saxons in England. She is more often in history referred to by the Latin version of the name, "Matilda," used by the French and Norman-French; the Normans also used another spelling for the name, "Mahaut." The problem facing the princess in her desire to replace her father as ruler of the dual kingdoms was that neither Normans nor Saxons had ever been ruled by a woman. The King had asked his Norman lords to swear to support his daughter's claim to the throne, and they did take an oath to do so; but upon the death of Henry they immediately violated their oaths and gave their support to Stephen

of Blois, one of Henry's nephews and a grandson of William the Conqueror, as their next king, even though Stephen had sworn to King Henry that he would support Matilda and even though he had an older brother who might have been considered to have a stronger claim to kingship. Stephen was initially to have been a passenger on the White Ship; but he had evidently become ill, and so left the ill-fated vessel. This not only saved his life, but kept him in line for the throne, which he was about to receive in 1135. Both Stephen and Matilda raised armies, and civil war began. Matilda was not in England at the time, but her half-brother Robert of Gloucester and others of her supporters took the

lead in fighting for her cause in England while she concentrated on thwarting Stephen's ambitions in Normandy. She finally went to England in 1139.

Few major battles were fought in the long war, but there were innumerable skirmishes. In one battle, near Lincoln, in 1141 Matilda captured Stephen, deposed him, and seemed about to realize her ambition of becoming queen because she could march unimpeded to London and hopefully gain the support of the city, which was evidently ready to arrange her coronation. A church council approved her as the next ruler of England. However, Matilda's speech to the Londoners was so rude and threatening that the citizens rebelled and drove her out. Since Matilda was never actually crowned, she is frequently omitted from the list of English monarchs. Matilda had to release Stephen in exchange for the release of Robert of Gloucester, who was one of her most loyal supporters, so the war continued. At one critical point in the war, Matilda was besieged at Oxford Castle. Her escape reads like something from a Hollywood script. She waited for winter and a heavy snowfall. Then she, either alone or, more probably, with a few of her most trusted men, all dressed in white, lowered themselves on white bedclothes, from a tall window; and, with the snow covering their escape, made their way across the countryside to Wallingford, where she had strong support waiting for her. In another Hollywood type of story, she supposedly escaped from her enemies by pretending to be a corpse in a casket being taken out of the city of Devizes for burial. The war continued to drag on. (<http://www.economicexpert.com/a/Empress:Maud.htm>).

Finally, Matilda promised not to fight against Stephen any longer if he would agree that Henry of Anjou, her eldest son by her second husband, Geoffrey, Duke of Anjou, a descendant of the Crusader King of Jerusalem, should be the next king. Stephen agreed to this and honored his word—and his Norman knights accepted the compact, even though they had a long dislike and distrust of Anjou. Matilda was able to hold on to Normandy, setting up court there. Her husband had secured the country for her, so one of the Normans' worst fears, that they might someday lose Normandy to Anjou, had become a reality. Matilda lived out her life in Normandy. Her eldest son, known as Henry Curtmantle, did indeed become the next ruler of both England and Normandy, reigning as Henry II in England, and styling himself as "King of England" rather than simply "King of the English," a title used by earlier rulers. With Henry's accession, the name of his Angevin family, the famous Plantagenets, first entered English history (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empress_Matilda).

The effect of the war on English coinage was that it terribly damaged the quality of the English silver penny, the only denomination made in England at the time. The silver coinages of both Stephen and Matilda are among the most poorly made and least attractive of any coins minted by any English monarchs. The reasons for the poor quality of the coins are easy to guess at. They were being struck on English soil during a civil war which saw armies moving back and forth frequently over the same areas. In general, Stephen held much of the east and south, while Matilda and Robert of Gloucester controlled a lot of the west, but battle lines were shifting frequently. A mint which on one day was in Stephen's territory could be in Matilda's the next day. More than sixty different mints were producing coins during these troubled years; inevitably, several would have been caught in these shifts of power.

Mintmasters indeed faced an emergency situation. They did not want to strike the name of one claimant to the throne on their issues if the other claimant was going to be in control a short time later. They ran a great risk of offending one or the other of the two leaders and possibly incurring heavy punishment as a result. The solution for some mintmasters was to leave the names of both Matilda and Stephen off of their coins; and they replaced those two names with—although this might seem unbelievable—a name that they just simply made up, "Pereric." There never had been a king in England with that name and never would be. The mints also took some other unexpected measures. Some types struck in the north near Scotland bore the name of King David of Scotland or his heir, Prince Henry. Considering the poor quality of the coins, with weak strikes, many blundered letters, and partial legends—plus the fact that many Englishmen could not read—the mint workers may have felt relatively safe in doing these extraordinary things. In Robert Friedberg's *Coins of the British World: Complete from 500 A. D. To The Present*: New York: The Coin and Currency Institute, 1962, the coins of Pereric are listed as #419 and are said to have been struck at Bristol, Canterbury, Lincoln, London, Stamford and Winchester (p. 27). Friedberg lists seven "regular" issues for Stephen and a large number of "irregular" issues, basically varieties of the regular pieces. In one very interesting and very expensive penny from the York Mint, Stephen and Matilda are shown standing side by side. Friedberg does not acknowledge any separate portrait issues for Matilda, but he shows a type bearing Stephen's portrait with Matilda's name. On this type she is considered to be an empress, "MATILDA IMP" on some, "MATILDA IMPERATR" on others (p. 27). This is a grand title indeed for the woman who had said she just wanted to be called "the Lady of the English"; but it is historically correct, because earlier in her life she had been married to yet another Henry, the Holy Roman Emperor Henry V, who died in 1125. As happened later in England, the lady was never actually crowned; but, even so, she was frequently referred to as an empress. The marriage might have been childless, at least no child survived, so Matilda was free to return to England. For other coins made for Matilda's side, we note that Stephen's portrait appears with the name of Henry of Anjou, Matilda's son. Then finally, some issues show not just the name of young Henry but also his portrait, even though he was not yet a king (p. 27). The young prince was sometimes called Henry Fitzempress in recognition of his mother's title, but the term does not appear on any of his coins.

In a more recent study than Friedberg's, *Coincraft's Standard Catalogue of English and UK Coins: 1066 to Date*, published in London by Coincraft in 1999, Richard Lobel limits the pictures of Stephen's pennies to five, but adds that there are many variants of the basic five. He omits these because, he says, they are uniformly rare, many of them actually unique, and almost all of them in terrible condition. The type that is easiest for collectors to find is known as the Watford Type, called such because a number of them were found at Watford in 1807. This hoard contained some coins that we referred to earlier, in which the king was identified as "PERERIC(M)," although on others his name was given as "STIEFNE," one of the most common spellings of the name of King Stephen. Six other spellings of his name appear, including one very strange spelling, "STEFNER" (p. 320). He was identified as the king by an abbreviation "R" or "RE" or by the full spelling of "REX." The usual obverse designs show Stephen facing in various directions: left or right, full or 3/4 full to the front. He may or may not be bearded. He may or may not be carrying a

scepter; sometimes he carries a flag or mace. On one type a cross has been placed on the obverse, thus obliterating the king's face; surprisingly, since such a coin would possibly have been very insulting to the king, this type was evidently struck at five different mints.

The typical reverses will show a lozenge, a cross, or more than one cross. Various designs may appear in the angles of the crosses, such as annulets, birds, flowers and stars. The mint name should appear on the reverse, but many existing pieces are of such low quality that it is impossible to see anything of the name (Friedberg, pp. 25-27).

The issues of Stephen's silver pennies which contain legible mint identifications are all rare, very rare, or extremely rare, regardless of the mint which produced them. Because of the limited space in the legends of the pennies, abbreviations were used, and many of these, even if partly legible are not sufficient to enable collectors to make a full identification of the mint. The productions from such larger mints as Canterbury, Lincoln, and even London are rare. From smaller mints such as Bramber, Corbridge, Hendon, Lewes, Rye, Steyning, and Watchet, all issues are considered extremely rare. Even issues from York are extremely rare. (Watford itself was, of course, not a mint).

Matilda is credited by Lobel with one basic penny type. This shows a crowned bust with scepter; the legend reads "MATILDI IMP." The reverse shows a cross moline. In a major variety, the reverse shows two crosses, a cross pattee over a cross fleury. Her coins were minted in at least seven different mints, one as far away as Wales, the Cardiff Mint, identified on her coins as "CAIERDI." On others of her issues, a "CA" abbreviation is used, but not for Cardiff; it stands for either Calne or Canterbury, each of which is believed to have struck coins for Matilda. Of course, all of Matilda's coins are extremely rare, and a collector might have to wait years before seeing one come on the market (pp. 320-22).

Because of the constant unrest in the country and because of the appallingly poor quality of the coins of Matilda and Stephen, many English lords began to strike their own silver pennies. These nobles included William of Blois, the Bishop of Winchester, a relative of King Stephen, and the aforementioned Robert of Gloucester. Family connections did not blind these men to the pressing need for a better coinage. Many of their issues were actually of quite good quality (Friedberg, pp. 27-28).

When Stephen died in 1154, his family lost England, as he was replaced as king by Matilda's son, young Henry Fitzempress. Years before Stephen's family had lost Normandy. Stephen had had to give up all hope of holding on to Normandy, even though he was perhaps the largest landholder and the richest man among all the Normans. When her father died in 1135, and Stephen raced to England, Matilda was in Anjou. She wasted no time in moving north into Normandy to fight for that part of her inheritance, and was able to thwart Stephen's ambitions to add that country to his control. By 1139, Matilda felt that her position in Normandy was strong enough that she could give her attention to the invasion of England. Her husband carried on the war in Normandy on her behalf, and in 1144, Geoffrey, succeeded in securing control of all of Normandy for his wife and himself, having taken the important city of Rouen

in that year. Matilda did not return to Normandy until 1147; then Geoffrey and Matilda ruled jointly as Duke and Duchess of Normandy until they ceded it to their son in 1149. Although Matilda lived long enough to see her son become King of England, her last years could not have been completely happy. For one thing, Henry II had great difficulty with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas a Becket, a dangerous situation in which she tried unsuccessfully to intervene. Also, her second son, Geoffrey, twice rebelled against his older brother before dying suddenly in 1158. Her third son, William, said to have been his mother's favorite, also predeceased her; Becket had refused to allow him to marry the English lady he loved, so William returned to Normandy, where he died in 1164. Matilda continued to live in or near Rouen for the rest of her life, dying near that city in 1167. Although she was initially buried elsewhere in Normandy, her body was transferred in 1847 to Rouen.

Under Henry II, the penny continued to be the only denomination struck by the English. At first, the country continued to strike coins of Stephen's types. These also are of very poor quality. By 1158, however, Henry introduced coinage with his portrait on the obverse and a cross and crosslets design on the reverse. These coins were of correct weight and fineness; but they were made in thirty-one different mints, and they are of very uneven quality, many being very poor. These are frequently referred to as the Tealby Pennies after the name of the site where many of these were found. Then, a new and important design appeared in 1180, near the end of Henry's reign, the Short Cross Penny, on which the reverse design shows a cross in which the vertical part runs from 12:00 to 6:00 (o'clock) and the horizontal part extends from 3:00 to 9:00. These are often very unattractive, but at least they are improved in quality, and the positions of the parts of the crosses made it easy to divide the pennies into halfpennies and farthings (Lobel, pp. 322-23).

Later Plantagenets traveled widely on the Continent and became acquainted with the coinage of several other European countries. The desire of the Plantagenets to increase trade with the Continent led to the minting of new and larger types of coins—the silver half-groat and groat, for two examples. The groat was similar to the French *gros* and the Italian *grosso*. Also, England began to experiment with the production of gold coins, first the unsuccessful 20 Pence, then the unsuccessful Helm or Quarter Florin, and then the unsuccessful Leopard gold coins, all failures coming before the eventual and great successes of the Noble, Half Noble and Quarter Noble, which definitely established gold issues as major elements in English coinage.

NI

NI Educational Programs
ANA *World's Fair of Money*, August 5-9, 2009
(updated from May/ June bulletin)

The Numismatics International Education Program Moderator, Howard A. Daniel III, will be manning a club table for NI (as well as IBNS, NBS, & PCF) at the American Numismatic Association *World's Fair of Money* at the Los Angeles Convention Center, 1201 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California.

There will be about 400 free packets with world coins from NI (and a banknote from IBNS) to be given to young and new numismatists in the name of NI at the club table. References will also be given to scout counselors to assist with those scouts working on their numismatic merit badge.

There will be an NI meeting at 12:00 PM (Noon) on August 8th in a meeting room described in the program. **Everett Jones, an advanced collector and researcher of chopmarked coins, will give a talk to the attendees.** All members are welcome and should bring one piece from home or one bought on the bourse to describe during the show-and-tell part of the meeting. There is a map to the convention center at <http://www.money.org>.

Howard will also be the moderator of the International Bank Note Society (IBNS) meeting at 11AM in the same room and all NI members are welcome to join it. There is often a Mini-Fest during the last 15 minutes of the meeting. This part of the meeting is conducted by collectors of Military Payment Certificates (MPC) and other military financial instruments and Military Fest Certificates (MFC) are usually "paid" to the attendees. Whether or not you collect militaria, you will enjoy the Fest.

The club table on the bourse can be designated as a meeting place for NI members; members are invited to volunteer to man it so that Howard can look around the bourse and attend other meetings. Howard is looking forward to meeting new and old NI members in Los Angeles!

NI

